University Honors Program
October 1, 2010

304th Meeting

APPROVED

Voting members present: Nancy Castle (for Nancy Nuzzo/HHS), Greg Conderman (EDUC), Sien Deng (LAS), Tim Ryan (LAS), Scot Schraunfagel (LAS), Bart Sharp (BUSE), and Honors students David Hansell, Nora Lindvall, Alex Porter, and Ken Wang

Voting members absent: Sinclair Bell (VPA), Brianno Coller (EET), Michael Duffy (LIB), Paul Stoddard (UCC/LAS), and Honors student Lydia Lindenberg

Ex-officio members present: David Changnon (Acting Assistant Associate Provost) and Daniel Kempton (Honors)

Ex-officio members absent: None.

Others: Honors staff Kate Braser, Jes Cisneros, and Joanne Ganshirt (Recording Clerk)

I. Approval of Agenda

CONDERMAN/SHARP MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. THE MOTION PASSED.

II. Approval of Minutes from 3 September 2010

SHARP/CASLTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED.

III. Program Coordinator’s Report

Braser presented the following written report:

ACTIVITIES:

- The Honors Program will kick off our 40th anniversary celebration on April 8, 2011 with a reception in the suburbs, to be followed by an awards banquet in fall 2011. Please put the spring date on your calendars, as you will all be invited and encouraged to attend.
- We'll promote the spring reception during our Homecoming festivities on Oct. 16. You are all invited to join us in the Alumni Affinity Groups tent in Alumni
Village before the game. We have ordered a banner, poster and giveaways promoting the anniversary.

- Planning is underway for our Oct 11 open house, which will be combined with Honors Day this time. We are working with Admissions. Saturday not a lot of students around so over lunch hour there will be a lunch in Altgeld. Still have reception in office in morning. Invite committee members.
- By the time you read this, Dr. Castle, Dr. Kempton and I will have survived a week that included paintball with the Honors House and a faculty/staff vs. student soccer game.
- SOUPer Wednesdays continue this fall. We’ve had campus or community guests every week.
- Orientations for our new Honors students concluded this week.

SERVICE:
- Conexion Comunidad has begun. We have 45 volunteers registered this semester. We have partnered with SOL and Teach House as well to recruit volunteers. We actually have more volunteers than kids so far, but the numbers are rising each day.

HONORS HOUSE:
- Floor Wars continues to be a huge draw. Competitions thus far have included Scrabble, Rocks Paper Scissors Tournament, Shoe Lace Tying Race, Texting Competition, Mr. C Wing, Wheely chair races, and more. Enthusiasm is very high. Students even doing face painting for competitions held.
- Room retention begins Nov. 1 this year, which is very early. We’re working with Housing and Dining on the marketing for that etc.
- We are planning to do Midsemester checks in the Honors House. We are seeking faculty to volunteer to visit a floor lounge with the floor CA and House Leader for an hour and answer questions students might have about spring course enrollment etc. (general questions). Please email me if you are interested. October 28 and 29.
- Paintball was Saturday
- Planning for Don’t Stress the Test is underway. They are doing a movie premiere where each floor will submit a short film as part of Floor Wars.

H.S.A.
- The H.S.A. has 104 registered members this fall. They meet every other Wednesday in the Honors Lounge. Upcoming activities include Family Dinners (they had about 60 at Chipotle two weeks ago), Camp-in in the Honors Lounge, and Free Hug Day. Previous activities have included Mario’s Mario Party Party, volunteering at Hope Have and a canned good drive.

ENRICHMENT:
- Continuing to work with Honors faculty on enrichment opportunities for their classes this fall. Three are underway already.
- Dennis Barsema started his five-week Microfinance Honors workshop series this week.
• Amy Newman had a poet visit her Honors Seminar.
• Steve Franklin’s seminar will visit the Art Institute and will meet with a guide who has agreed to focus their educational tour on European Art that he plans to discuss in his class.
• Honors Meet the Faculty/Spring Course Previews will take place Oct 26 at Pizza Villa. You are all invited to attend.
• Community Leaders are planning an Honors Workshop series geared toward upper classmen that will teach interview skills, resume building, networking, and financial tips.
• Profs. Roberts and Atkins have completed plans for events this fall. Atkins going to black music research center in Chicago. Roberts bringing in speakers. Kempton bringing speaker as well.

She wished Kempton a happy 50th birthday on October 1. She also wished Castle a happy birthday for October 4.

IV. Assistant Director’s Report

Cisneros reported he has been busy with advising of Honors students, both regular Honors advising and Capstone advising. This is also the time of year when in-course contracts are due, so he has been busy approving them.

Recruitment of continuing NIU students is currently ongoing. Referring to the enrollment tables he presented, Cisneros noted the total enrollment in the Honors Program has increased 23% from last year. Current enrollment is 929. Cisneros said he thinks the ideal enrollment would be 1,000. This number allows the Honors Program to offer a large number of courses and events without breaking the budget. He also noted that minority enrollment has increased 15% since 2007.

Cisneros has been working one of the Honors peer advisors on outreach to the Latino Resource Center and the Center for Black Studies. This is an effort to get more students involved with the Honors Program and could include programming that would be of interest to students in both organizations. He informed committee members this caused him to start thinking to what extent the university has first-generation college students no matter what the ethnic background. Based on information obtained from NIU’s Institutional Research office, he noted that NIU is below other public universities for percentage of parents with college degrees. Less than half of NIU students have parents with bachelor’s degrees. He wants to look at how to address concerns these students may have with attending college. This will be a future project.
### October 2010 Monthly Report Tables

#### Table 1
Current Active Honors Enrollment by Phase of Program

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<td>660</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>577</td>
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<td>384</td>
<td>501</td>
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<td>504</td>
<td>415</td>
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<td>341</td>
<td>428</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1154</td>
<td>1009</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>100%</td>
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#### Table 2
Students in Honors by Gender

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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>594</td>
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<td>Male</td>
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<td>335</td>
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<td>277</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>1214</td>
<td>992</td>
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<td>LA&amp;S</td>
<td>521</td>
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<td>560</td>
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<td>349</td>
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<td>146</td>
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<td>V&amp;PA</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>H&amp;HS</td>
<td>117</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<td>E&amp;ET</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>725</td>
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<td>African American</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>Latino</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
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<td>873</td>
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<td>817</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Minority</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>15%</td>
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*Data not collected for October 08 or 09 reports
V. Director’s Report

Kempton reported that the Honors Program will be offering a good number of courses for spring. There are now a number of faculty members interested in teaching courses on an annual basis. He is currently setting up a rotation system for courses within a department. Honors Program staff will also be checking all offered courses to be sure they have the proper coding for Honors registration.

A memo will be sent by Kempton to department chairs and advisors to outline changes in the Honors Program. The Honors Committee has done a lot of creative things in the last couple of years, such as service learning and study abroad for Honors credit as well as the acceptance of seminar credit for courses in the home departments, and this needs to be broadcast to the greater NIU community.

Kempton has been working with Housing and Student Dining to resolve issues concerning compensation for the faculty advisor of the Honors House. The Honors Program is having difficulty getting money from Housing. The Honors House spends a lot of money and effort creating initiatives for residents. Housing does not appear to be as ready to give money to the Honors Program as they are to other learning communities. As a result, there is a possibility the Honors House could move from Douglas Hall.

Nominations for the Student Laureate to the Lincoln Academy have been received by the selection committee. Kempton informed committee members there are seven very impressive nominees, five of whom are Honors students. The selection committee has narrowed the field to three nominees, all of whom are Honors students.

VI. Old Business

A. 40th Anniversary

Castle reported the administration of NIU has given great support to this effort. The Alumni Association has agreed to pay for the spring event on Friday, April 8, 2011 from 5-8 p.m. at Maggiano’s in Oak Brook. NIU President John Peters will be main speaker talking about the 2020 Plan. Kempton can speak to alum about changes in the Honors Program. University Relations will make and send invitations. For homecoming, giveaways have been purchased with save-the-date cards to be given to Honors alumni. There will also a thank-you banner at homecoming featuring names of everyone who has made donations through the True North Campaign from 2000-2010. This banner may be used in the Honors Program offices and at the April 8 event.
VII. **EYE grant proposal**

Referring to the EYE grant’s request for funding to attend a conference, Ryan said he was not sure the committee has precedent to give money only for attending a conference. He said this is an important aspect of higher learning the committee should encourage. Cisneros noted the conference is tied to a course in which she is doing an in-course contract. Porter said he likes the initiative shown by going to a conference. This is a good purpose for showing support. Ryan said it is unusual for undergraduates to present at a conference. This is good that she is going to a conference before making a presentation. This should be encouraged. Schraufnagel agreed that attending a conference as an undergraduate is good. This individual should represent the university well.

Sharp referred to past conversations for EYE grants held by the Honors Committee and said he was looking for the research aspect. He said just attending a conference does not give much to research. Cisneros noted that the requirements for research have been ratcheted up over the past few years over what the original intent of the EYE Grant required. The original intent was not just for research. Funds were available to students for any activity that pertained to an Honors course, whether capstone, in-course contract, or mini-section class. Ryan said Sharp was correct regarding the research aspect of the trip. There will be a presentation made as part of the in-course contract. Changnon suggested the student could give the committee a trip summary outlining what new things she learned at the conference. Cisneros said such a summary could be used as a template for future EYE Grant recipients. Conderman said he likes the idea of a summary because it forces the student to attend a variety of sessions.

Kempton agreed the summary is a good idea, but he had two differing opinions on funding the proposal. In past years not all the EYE grants funds have been allocated. More recently the funds have started to be fully allocated by March. He said he does not want to spend money for only attending a conference. If it is tied into the Honors contract there is more substance to the request. Lindvall asked if the in-course contract outlines what she will be doing for the class presentation.

Castle said the committee needs to discuss this type of proposal in the future because students should be encouraged to attend a conference with faculty members. The faculty member could act as a mentor. This would be a good opportunity to get faculty members engaged with the Honors Program as well.

Ryan said it sounded as if the committee members did not oppose the proposal in principal, but outcome, whether a written summary or the mentoring process, needed to be formalized. Kempton suggested asking the student to include a statement on what she learned from the faculty member in her report. Cisneros volunteered to work with the student and faculty member.
Castle asked Lindvall if she wanted the student to make a power point presentation to the committee. Lindvall said there needs to be an outline of how she will be making the presentation to the class. Castle said the faculty member may have already done this in the contract form. Wang wondered if the grants were given as investments in the future if they should be advertised that way.

Cisneros said there should be a faculty member component to the grant rather than just attending a conference. Schraufnagel noted the Honors Committee should be encouraging conference attendance. The proposal is a little too loose but may be okay for now. The requirements for this type of grant need to be updated for the future.

Changnon said that, from faculty aspect, it might be interesting to have a 15-minute presentation from each recipient on how the EYE Grant was used. Kempton said most of the EYE grants are given for work related to Capstone projects and he does not know how that would work. Braser added it would be nice to have students present the EYE grant. Failing that, each could attend one open house to speak to students and parents about the EYE grant. Ryan acknowledged such events would give the students public recognition.

Referring to an earlier statement by Schraufnagel regarding representation of the university, Porter said attending with the faculty member would give assurance of that. He added that a more intense presentation, as suggested by Lindvall, would ensure good use of time at the conference. Ryan agreed for the need of a more formal write up.

Conderman still had questions regarding the costs included in the EYE grant. He would like to see this fixed in all future grant proposals.

**CASTLE/SCHRAUFNAGEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANT WITH THE ADDITION OF SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN PRESENTATION, THAT SHE WORK ON THE GRANT PROPOSAL WITH CISNEROS, AND THAT SHE GET FACULTY INVOLVEMENT. THE MOTION PASSED.**

VIII. **New Business**

A. **Venture Grant Application**

Castle reported that an application was submitted grant for a summer camp to be held in July for 20 high school students. The camp, called H.E.L.P.—Huskies Enterprise in Leadership and Philanthropy, will be for high school students who are high achievers both academically and in leadership roles. The camp will be held for three days on campus and will include the Honors Program community and house leaders. Dennis Barsema will do a workshop on Kiva (a micro financing organization) and Judy Santacaterina will do a public speaking workshop. Kempton will also make a presentation. The camp will be focused on
developing leadership skills and volunteering locally, regionally, and globally. The students will be brought back twice a year for follow up. This will be an interdisciplinary event. If the grant is not received, there is a way to cut down on costs and find other funding sources. Earl Seaver, Vice Provost, has promised some seed money, as has the NIU Telefund.

B. Learning Communities

Kempton reported the Honors Program is trying to establish a new Learning Community (LC) for incoming freshmen. To that end he has talked to Duffy and John Fairfield of the School of Music to try to increase participation in the Honors Program by that School’s students. Fully 70% of music graduates in the last two years were Honors eligible. He presented a proposal with three steps for Music to increase the participation. The first step would be the proposed LC with Braser teaching a UNIV 101 section, Kempton teaching an international relations course, and Duffy teaching a music course. Paul Bauer, director of the School of Music, has agreed with this LC proposal.

The second step would be to introduce more upper-level music courses for Honors credit. This proposal will need to go before the faculty of the School of Music. Third step of the proposal is to form departmental honors in School of Music. This would allow students to do all UDH courses in music. This will also go before the School of Music faculty.

Schraufnagel asked about the specifics of LCs. How many courses are offered? Is it over one semester or two? Cisneros said LCs could help the Honors Program build enrollment of students in colleges that tend to be under enrolled. Schraufnagel said the Honors Program needs to have a discussion of what would be ideal for an LC. Should there be only one, two or three offered? Kempton said that is all open right now. The Honors Program is currently under enrolled in sophomore-level courses. Castle asked if there is any way to know what the most common general education courses are taken by sophomores. The Honors Program should look at the needs of sophomore students and plan accordingly.

C. Scholarship cooperation: Phase II (preapproved admissions)

Kempton reported that the online applications for university scholarships are already getting response. Since the applications have gone online, Kempton attended a meeting with Seaver; Brian Hemphill, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Katherine (Kitty) McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; and Anne Hardy, director of the Office of Scholarship, to find out what next step in the process will be. NIU and the Honors Program will now able to get scholarship offers out earlier. Prospective students will apply online for both scholarships and the Honors Program. A faculty committee will review scholarship applications. The idea is that a student with a 33 ACT and who is top of the class would be
approved with a response within a couple of weeks. Each applicant would receive
a similar response. The review committees would set pre-approved standards.
Students with those standards would be admitted automatically to the Honors
Program. Fewer than a dozen students would be eligible for automatic admittance. The online application would eliminate the need for students to call
looking for when offers will be made. Kempton said he thinks this a good idea.
He would also like to have the thoughts and approval of members of the Honors Committee.

The requirements for each award are listed below.

Criteria Proposal for Preapproved Scholarship Offers for Freshmen:

University Scholars (5): Full tuition/room & board/fees, $500 book stipend, and
preapproved admission to the University Honors Program*
ACT composite: 33
High School GPA: 4.0/4.0

Faculty Fund Scholarship (4): $4000 tuition, $2000 Faculty Fund stipend, and
preapproved admission to the University Honors Program
ACT composite: 32
High School GPA: 3.90/4.00

Academic Finalist (10): $4000 tuition, $500 book stipend, and preapproved
admission to the University Honors Program
ACT 31
High School GPA 3.80/4.0

Academic Affairs (20): $4000 tuition and preapproved admission to the
University Honors Program
ACT 30
High School GPA 3.80/4.0

*Note: All students with preapproved admission to the University Honors
Program must return a signed affirmation that they wish to participate in the
program.

Sharp asked what the normal admission criteria are for Honors. Cisneros told
committee members that applicants with a 27 or above ACT and in the top 10%
of the class are automatically admitted upon application. Students with a 25 or 26
ACT and a good class rank, as well those with a class rank of 85-89% but with a
27 or higher ACT may be admitted on a provisional basis. He added the most
successful students over the years have tended to be those with 25 or 26 ACTs.
Schraufnagel said he fully supports this. The numbers used for admission are
excellent indicators of success. Kempton again give his wholehearted support.
Cisneros noted this will be good for recruiting the best academic students to NIU.
IX. Announcements

Kempton announced the Honors Program will have a table at the Alumni Affinity Group tent in the alumni village.

The Honors Program will be taking part in the high school receptions again this year, but he has not heard from the committee in a while.

Ryan said he received a request from Liz Wright of the Graduate School requesting a student representative for the Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee. This committee meets only one or two times a year. Porter volunteered for this committee. Lindvall also volunteered to be the Honors student representative on the Undergraduate Coordinating Council.

X. Adjourn

WANG/SHARP MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 3 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED. The next meeting will be Friday, November 5 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Life 110.
Memorandum:

To: University Honors Committee Members

From: Anne E. Hardy, Director, Scholarship Office
       Dr. Daniel Kempton, Director, University Honors Program

Date: September 27, 2010

Re: Pre-Approved Scholarships and Honors Admissions

We have become increasingly aware of the need to be more strategic and proactive with our combined recruitment and scholarship offers for prospective freshmen students. In order to be more competitive, in particular with regards to academically talented, Honors-eligible students, we recommend presenting a comprehensive NIU “package” to these students shortly after their admission to the university.

The concept of an NIU package of opportunities includes scholarships, the Honors Program, Themed Learning Communities, Research Rookies, and other experiential learning opportunities. We believe that alerting our highest achieving, admitted students to NIU programs and opportunities earlier in the process will provide greater opportunity for interaction with key faculty, along with other individuals or groups, and could impact enrollment decisions and the student’s NIU experience.

Proposed changes to the scholarship review process include the identification of qualified freshmen applicants by ACT/SAT score and GPA and/or class rank. The top academic achievers will promptly be offered scholarship opportunities such as the University Scholars, Faculty Fund Scholarship, Academic Finalist, Academic Affairs, and Centennial Scholarship, and admission to the University Honors Program. The Honors Program will consider offering “pre-approved” admission to these students. The students would have an opportunity to opt into or out of the honors program, but would not be required to complete a regular application.

The Centennial scholarship will be offered to many students as part of the package. This follows traditional practice. However, for the highest achievers, we propose promptly offering the University Scholars, Faculty Fund Scholarship, Academic Finalist, or Academic Affairs on the basis of criteria preapproved by the Scholarship Committee. The students who receive these preapproved scholarships as part of their package must have academic credentials that far exceed the published criteria.

Due to the small number of selective scholarships that we can offer to freshmen students, a faculty review of remaining applicants (freshmen and transfer) would take place in mid-January as funding allows. Unexpended scholarships from the above programs would also be granted in the order ranked by the Scholarship Committee. At that time, the Scholarship Committee will also review the criteria for future preapproved awards.

Cc. Dr. Brian O. Hemphill, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
    Dr. Earl J. Seaver, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs